इसके अतिरिक्त तेल अन्वेषण क्रियाकलापों के संवर्धन हेतु भारत सरकार ने वर्ष 1991 से निजी कंपनियों को 35 अन्वेषण ब्लाक अवार्ड किए हैं। सरकार ने हाइड्रोकार्बनों के अन्वेषण में निजी भागीदारी और निवेश को प्रोत्साहन देने के लिए नई अन्वेषण लाइसेंस नीति (एन ई एल पी) की घोषणा भी की है।

Funds drawn from Oil Pool Account

390. SHRI RAM GOPAL YADAV: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry of Finance had drawn funds from oil pool account;

(b) if so, when alongwith the total amount so drawn and on what basis;

(c) whether the rate of interest and the repayment schedule was also decided while giving funds to Ministry of Finance; and

(d) if so, by when the funds are likely to be refunded?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) to (d) Under the scheme of oil pool accounts, the surplusses are required to be deposited in the Public Account. The deposits are not interest bearing and do not have a pre-determined withdrawal schedule. The withdrawal from the deposit account have been made from time to time on the basis of the budget of the relevant year approved by Parliament. As on date Rs. 4429 crore is outstanding in the deposits in the Public Account.

Royalty on Crude Oil

391. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed some actual rate of royalty on crude oil for every year from 1993-94 onwards on the basis of production;

(b) if not, the reasons for delay which is resulting in increase of arrears; and

(c) what is the hitch in clearing the arrears?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T. R. BAALU): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) For the three year period (1993-94 to 1995-96) the actual weighted cost of production has to be worked out on the basis of the figures audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) and the final rate of royalty is to be notified on this basis and necessary adjustments are to be made against the 'on account' payments already made. CAG has yet to give its consent to the audit of the cost of production figures of the National Oil Companies.

In view of the changed environment and the need to provide for a transparent and reasonable methodology for fixation of rates of royalty on crude oil, certain amendments to the Oil fields (Regulation and Development) Act, 1948 are considered necessary.

मधुबनी में झंझारपुर में पेट्रोल पम्प

392. **श्री राम देव भंडारी:** क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या बिहार के मधुबनी जिले के झंझारपुर उपखण्ड के मुख्यालय में सरकारी स्तर पर एक पेट्रोल पम्प की स्थापना की गई है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) क्या पेट्रोल पम्प स्थापित करने के लिए उपलब्ध कराई भूमि के संबंध में नियमों का पालन किया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है?

पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री टी० आर० बालू): (क) और (ख) बिहार राज्य में मधुबनी जिलान्तर्गत झंझारपुर खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र विषणन योजना 1993-96 में अ०जा० श्रेणी के अंतर्गत सम्मिलित है। इस स्थान को सरकारी नीति के मुताबिक

इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन द्वारा पुनः विज्ञापित करवाया जाएगा।

(ग) और (घ) जी, हां। विद्यमान नीति के अनुसार तेल कंपनियों से अ०जा० / अ०ज०जा० श्रेणी के तहत आबंटित डीलरशिपों / डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपों के लिए भूमि एवं अन्य सुविधाएं तथा कार्यशील पूंजी ऋण उपलब्ध कराना अपेक्षित है। उपयुक्त भूमि प्राप्त करने के संबंध में विलम्ब के कारण डीलरशिपें / डिस्ट्रीब्यूटरशिपें आरम्भ करने में विलम्ब से बचने के लिए कभी कभी तेल कम्पनियां अग्रिम रूप से भूमि की पहचान करती है और इसे पट्टे पर ले लेती है / इसकी खरीद करती है। झंझारपुर स्थित खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र के मामले में इंडियन आयल कारपोरेशन ने इस खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र को विकसित करने के लिए 30 वर्षीय पट्टे पर एक उपयुक्त भू-खण्ड प्राप्त किया है। यह खुदरा बिक्री केन्द्र डीलर चयन बोर्ड द्वारा संस्तुत चयनित डीलर को आबंटित किया जाएगा।

Rate of Royalty on Crude Oil

393. SHRI BANGARU LAXMAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government of India has fixed the rate of royalty on crude oil on adhoc basis; and

(b) whether Government of Gujarat has represented to fix the regular rate for the block 1993 to 1996?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Presently an 'on account' payment at the rate of Rs. 578/- per metric tonne towards royalty on crude oil is being made with effect from 1.4.1996 subject to adjustment on notification of the final rate of royalty and finalisation of crude price in due course.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Cancellation of Dealerships

394. SHRI LAKKHIRAM AGARWAL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether 21 persons who were allotted petrol pumps, LPG and SKO/LDO dealerships from Ministers quota by the then Minister, Shri B. Shankaranand, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas have been issued notices for cancellation of the allotment;

(b) if no, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action taken to cancel the dealerships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) In the writ petition No. 4003/95 filed by Centre for Public Interest Litigation, Hon'ble High Court of Delhi had issued show cause notice to 21 dealerships/distributorships who were allotted dealerships/distributorships under the discretionary quota by then then Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas, Shri B. Shankaranand during 1992-93. The Hon'ble High Court, in its Order dated August 29, 1997, has adjourned the hearing of these 21 cases. Further action in the matter will depend on the directions of the High Court.

Crude Oil Production in North East

395. DR. MANMOHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what has been the trend of production in crude oil in the North East since 1990-91;

(b) what are the reasons for the shortfall in achieving the production targets; and

(c) what measures contemplated to restore the lost momentum of production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) The trend of production of crude oil